

# THE DOT SIGNAL BOOK



BY CLIFFORD LEON SHERMAN





Class HE 9735

Book 155

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By Clifford L. Sherman

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THE GREAT DOT MYSTERY.

THE DOT CIRCUS.

THE DOT BOOK.

HOUGHTON MIFFLIN COMPANY

BOSTON AND NEW YORK

THE DOT SIGNAL BOOK  
FOR BOYS AND GIRLS





✓ THE  
DOT SIGNAL BOOK  
FOR BOYS AND GIRLS

BY  
CLIFFORD L. SHERMAN ✓



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no 2

## A WORD OF EXPLANATION

To complete the picture start at dot number one,  
draw a straight line to dot number two,  
and from there on, in order. All you  
need is a pencil—rather soft.



# THE DOT SIGNAL BOOK

## FOR BOYS AND GIRLS

A GREAT cheer went up from the audience when a soldier man appeared in uniform, and, after he was introduced by one of the boys, he addressed all those present at the entertainment for the aid of the soldiers. He said, "As long as I have been asked to contribute something to this entertainment, I have made up my mind that my contribution will be something useful. I am going to suggest that we all go out of doors, and I will teach you something that may come in handy some day. And I would suggest that each one of you here should ask his mother to make him a set of signal flags."



The soldier explained how useful signalling was, and explained that when he held the flags crossed above his head he meant he was going to send numerals. For, you see, some signals mean both letters and figures. But, if he has not signalled that he is going to send numbers, all of the signals mean letters. "Thus," he said, "when I face you and hold one flag in my right hand forty-five degrees from the base and the other flag parallel to it, in front of my body while I am facing you, I am sending you the letter 'A' or the figure '1.' "

9.10

A 1

6.5

4

3

11

8

2

7



SHERM

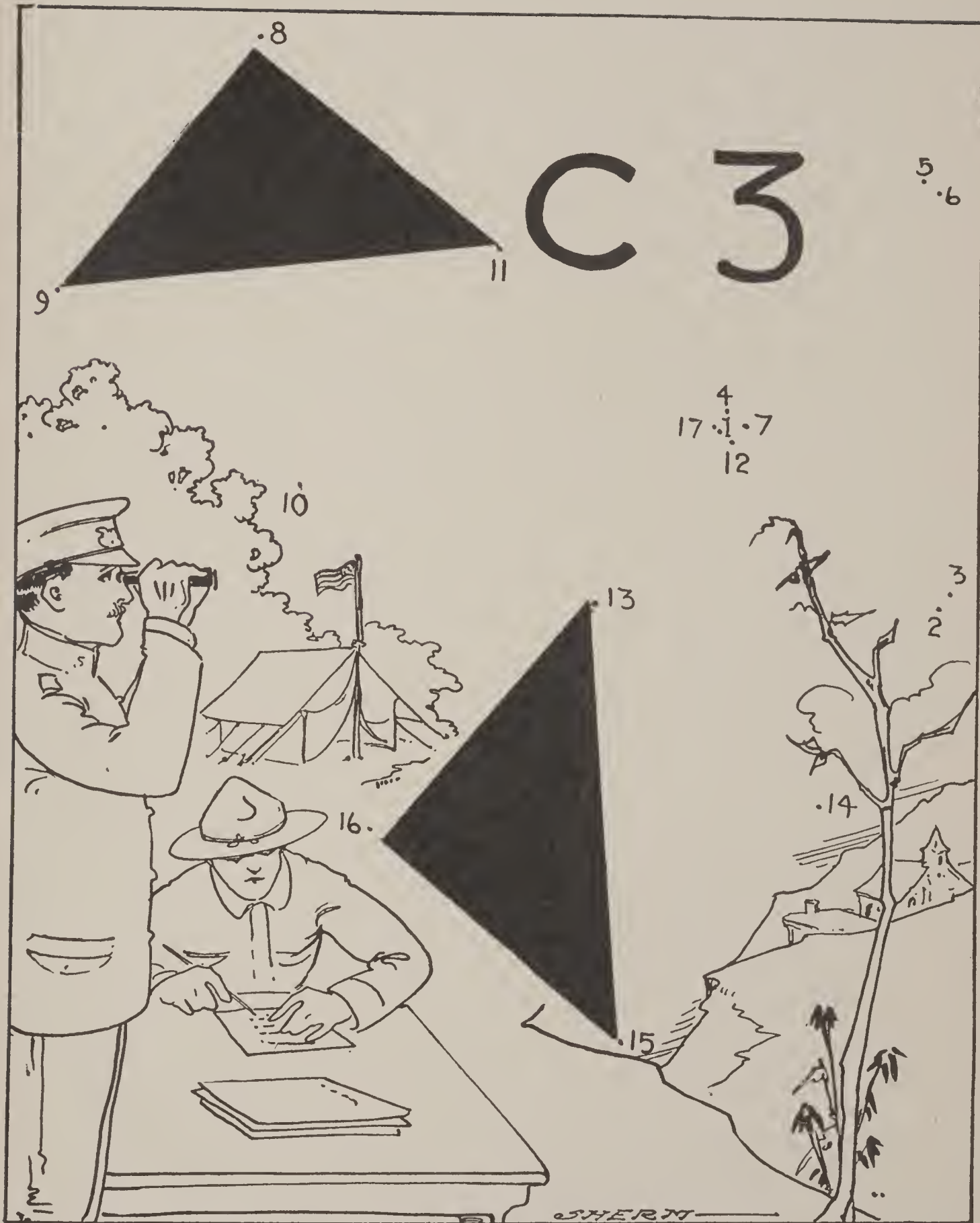
The soldier said he wanted all of the girls to learn the signal code, as well as the boys, because they would find it lots more interesting than the telephone and lots cheaper. He said if you saw a man facing you and holding one flag in his right hand, at right angles with his body, and the other flag in front of his body, that there was not the least possible doubt but that he was sending you the letter "B" or the numeral "2." "Why," he said, "there won't be any fun in going camping this summer at all if you don't know how to wig-wag."

# B 2



As soon as the boys learned the importance of signalling in times of war, they became highly enthusiastic over the system and each one agreed to practise it until he was perfect. Broken telephone lines and bad connections would have no further terrors for them. The soldier then explained that, when the man signalling was facing you and held a flag in his right hand one hundred and thirty-five degrees from the base with the other flag in front of his body, he was sending the letter "C" or the numeral "3."





The boys were very much interested to learn how the observer, watching the signals with a glass or the naked eye, called off the messages to an aide who wrote out the messages in times of war, so they could be transmitted to the commanding officer. The soldier explained this and also an elaborate system of checking up to avoid errors. Then he said, "When the signaller is facing you and holds the flag in his right hand directly over his head and the other flag in front of his body, the letter he wishes to send is 'D' or the numeral '4.'"



“Signalling,” said the demonstrator, “is a mighty fine thing for all of you boys, especially for the Boy Scouts. This system is much quicker than the Morse code and is just as easily learned. When you are hiking and want to make a camp, it is fine to have one Scout go ahead and find a good place and then send word back with the flags. And, if he should hold a flag in his left hand at one hundred and thirty-five degrees from the base and the other in his right hand in front of his body, he is sending the letter ‘E’ or the numeral ‘5.’”



E 5

11.10

16

13.

14

9  
12.6.17  
1

8.7

15

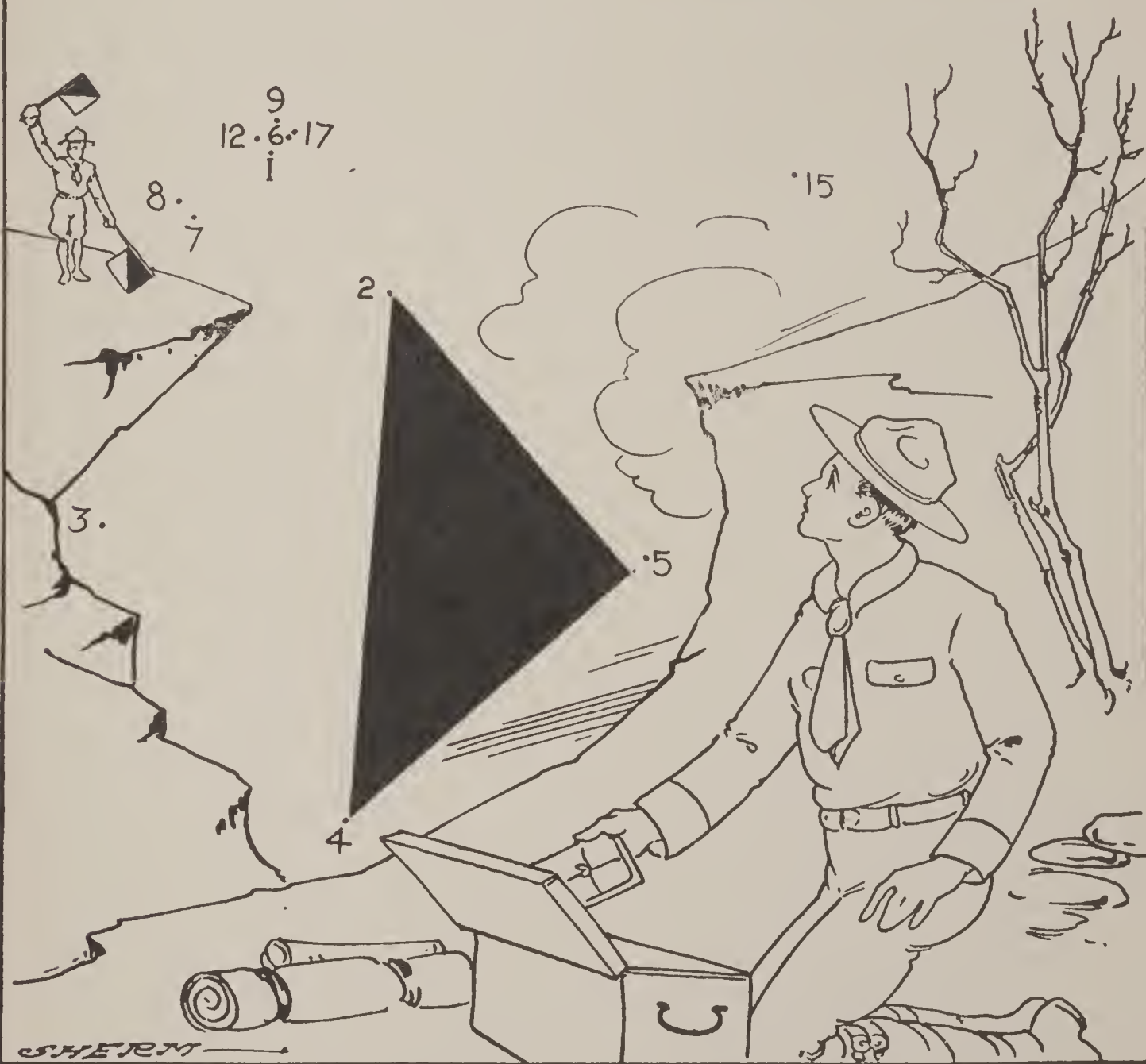
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3.

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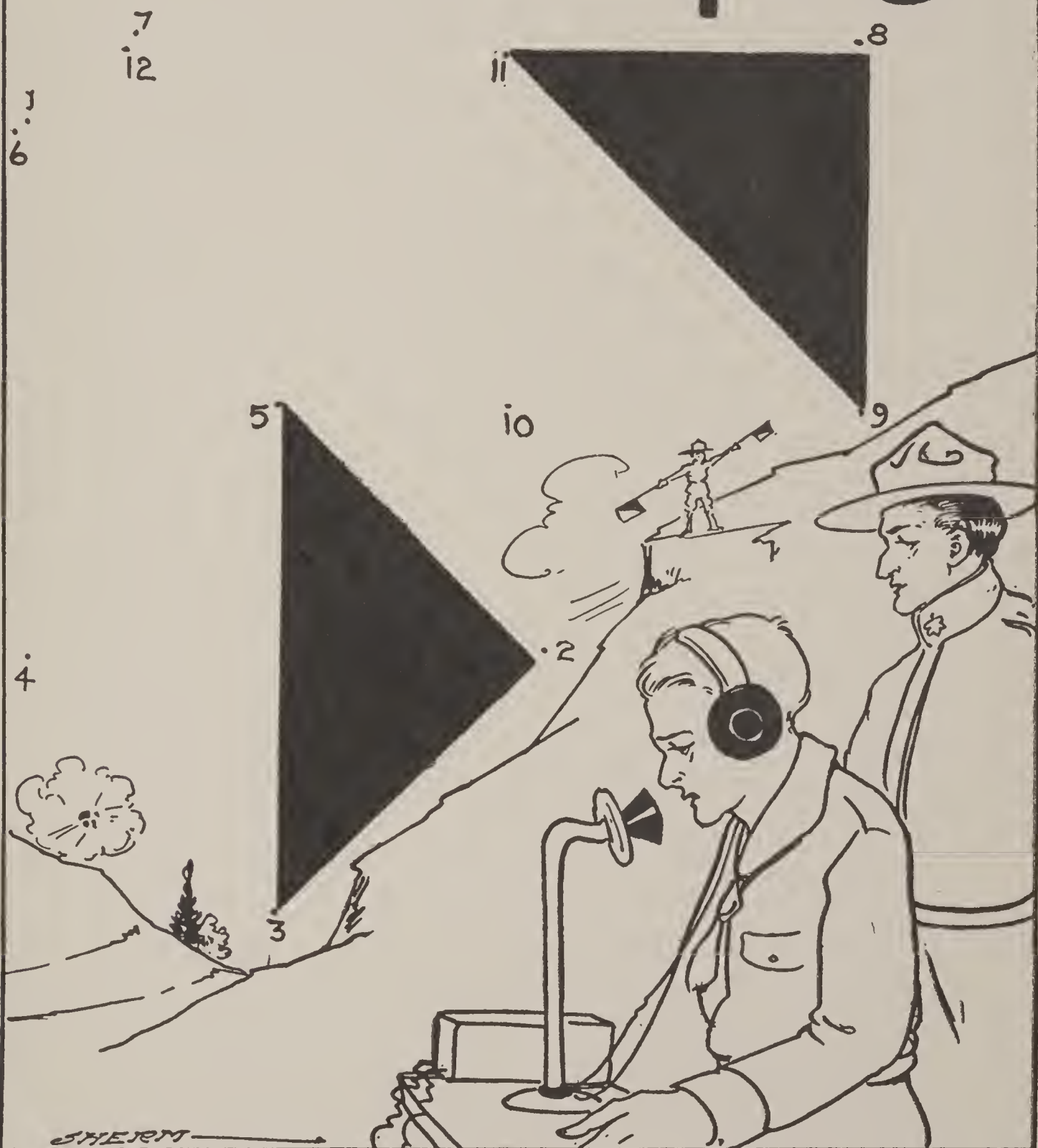
SHERM





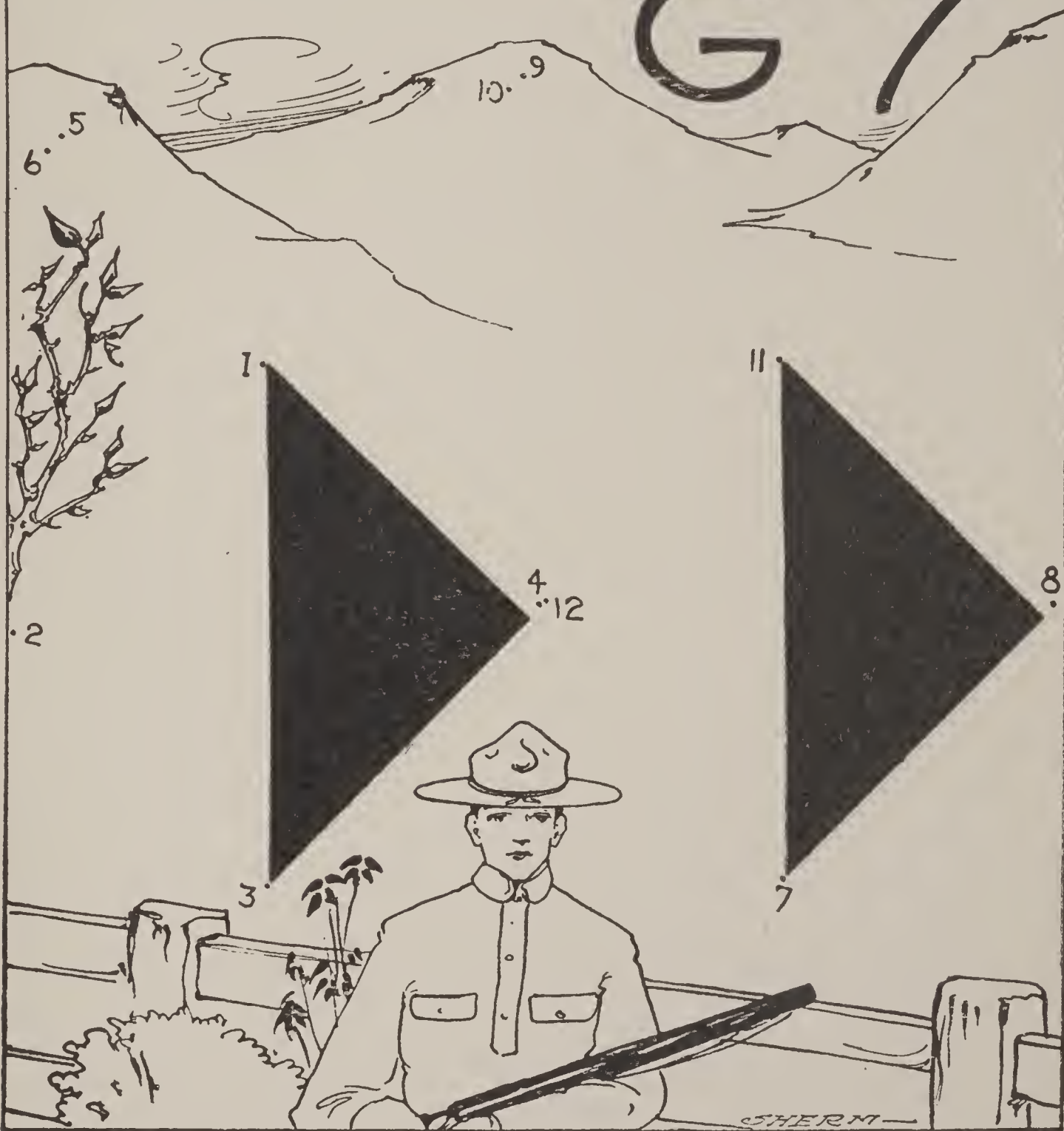
The audience realized how necessary the flag system was, when they learned how the men on the outposts signalled back to the lines when they wanted stretcher-bearers to bring in the wounded. For, at such a time every minute counts, and the system is invaluable in case the field telephone is not working. When a man is seen holding the left-hand flag at right angles with his body, and the right-hand flag down, in front of his body, then he is sending the letter "F" or the numeral "6."

F 6



“ Every sentry,” said the officer, “ must keep his eyes open for signal flags. Lots of people think the sentry is simply supposed to stand guard, but really he must be on the lookout for any possible messages that might be sent from some camp at a distant place. On a clear day the flags can be seen with the naked eye for a mile or more and, when the sender holds the flag in his left hand at an elevation of forty-five degrees from the ground and the one in his right hand parallel to the left hand flag but in front of his body, he is sending the letter ‘ G ’ or the numeral ‘ 7. ’ ”

G 7



“ I don't know whether or not,” said the officer, who was explaining the semaphore system of signalling by hand flags, “ I told you the part of the flag which appears black in the sketches is of red cloth and the red part is always attached to the staff. Of course, you will readily understand, the more conspicuous the place where you stand, the easier it is for the observer to read the message. When the person sending the message holds one flag in his right hand at right angles with his body and the one in his left hand to the right at an angle of forty-five degrees from the ground, he is sending the letter ‘ H ’ or the numeral ‘ 8. ’ ”



H 8

5

2

8<sup>1</sup><sub>13</sub>

6<sup>7</sup>

4

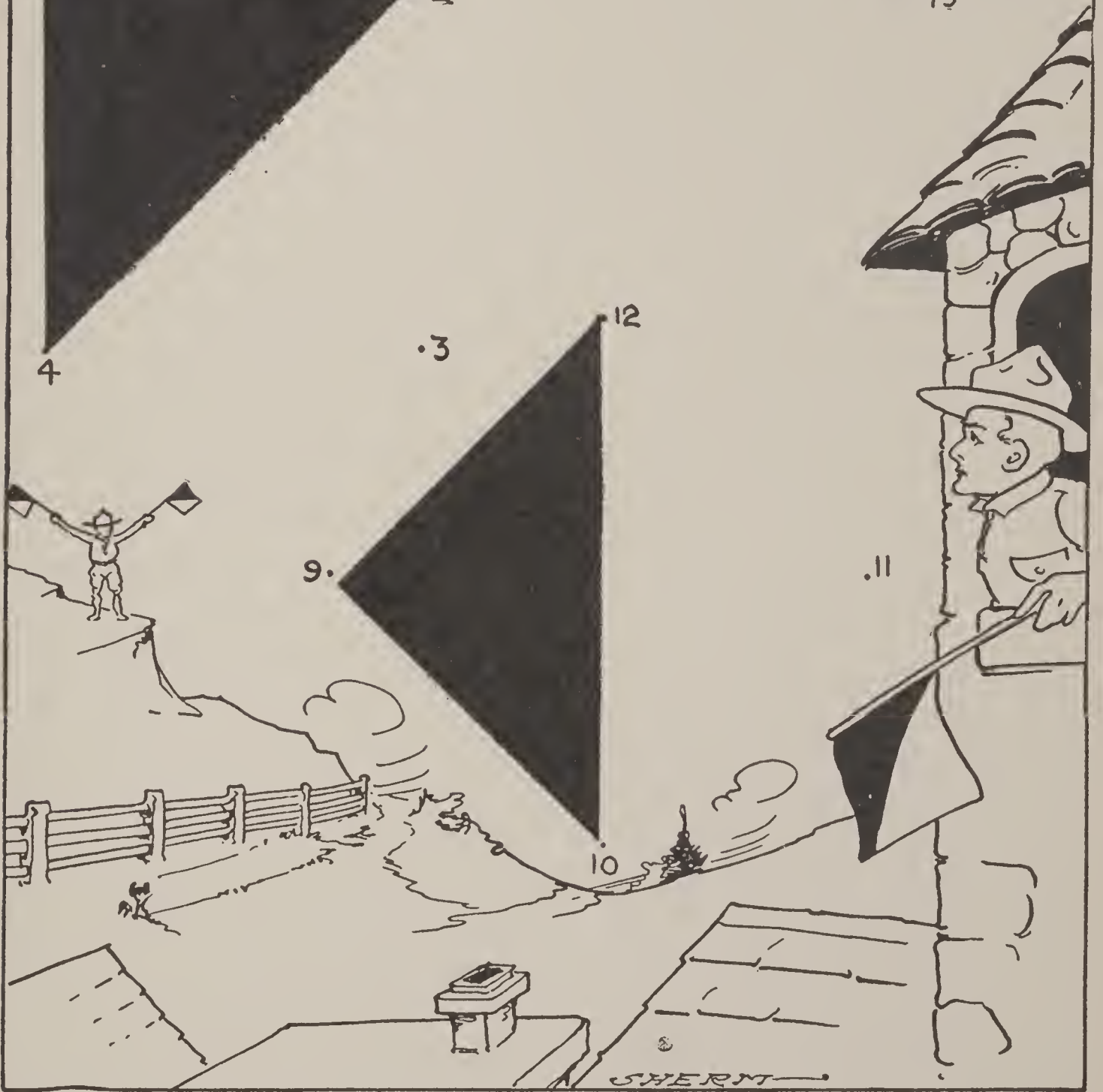
3

12

9

11

10



“ Every girl,” said the officer, “ should learn the semaphore system especially if she is going camping this summer. It is a great way to signal across a lake from one camp to another, and is invaluable in case of accidents. When the person signalling holds the right-hand flag to the right at an elevation of one hundred and thirty-five degrees from the ground and the left-hand flag to the right of the body at an elevation of forty-five degrees, he or she is sending the letter ‘I’ or the numeral ‘9.’ ”



“Girls,” said the officer, “are unusually quick at learning signalling, and my advice to you boys is to practise all you can, so they will not get ahead of you. And you must remember there will be many positions for the girls if they are educated to the needs of the country. To go on with the system: When you see the person signalling holding the right-hand flag above the head and the left-hand flag at the left at a right angle to the body, he is sending the letter ‘J’ or the numeral ‘o.’”





The officer impressed the boys and girls with the necessity of getting their messages by flags correctly. "For," he said, "in most cases they have to be transmitted by field telegraph to headquarters and one mistake from the flag message may cause a lot of trouble. When the sender is holding the left-hand flag directly above his head and the right-hand flag to the right at forty-five degrees from the ground, he is sending the letter 'K' or a negative sign."





“The wig-wag system,” explained the officer, “is a good deal like playing the piano in some ways. If you learn it once thoroughly, you will never forget it, but to be really efficient you must practise a lot. After a while it will be as easy to send a message as to talk, and you will not have to think out each letter separately. When you see the sender holding his right-hand flag to the right of his body forty-five degrees from the ground and the left-hand flag to the left of his body one hundred and thirty-five degrees from the ground, you will know he is sending the letter ‘L.’ ”

L or  
preparatory.



The children learned that the wig-wag system was indispensable in the field, when they were told that, when a cavalryman who was doing scout duty found good water, he always signalled back that it was a good place to give the horses a drink. "For," said the officer, "water is one of the most important things that we must look for. And when we see a man signalling and he is holding his right-hand flag to the right of his body forty-five degrees from the ground and his left-hand flag to the left of his body at right angles with it, we know he is sending the letter 'M.'"



“When you read stories of the old Indian fighters,” explained the demonstrator, “you are led to believe the Indians themselves originated the wig-wag system. While they do not spell out the words the way we do, each tribe has a system by which they converse entirely with their hands. Many of our soldiers have learned this system, and it has been a great help to them. But with our system when we see a man holding his right-hand flag to the right of his body at an elevation of forty-five degrees and his left-hand flag at the left of his body at a like elevation, we know he is sending the letter ‘N’ or ‘annulling.’”

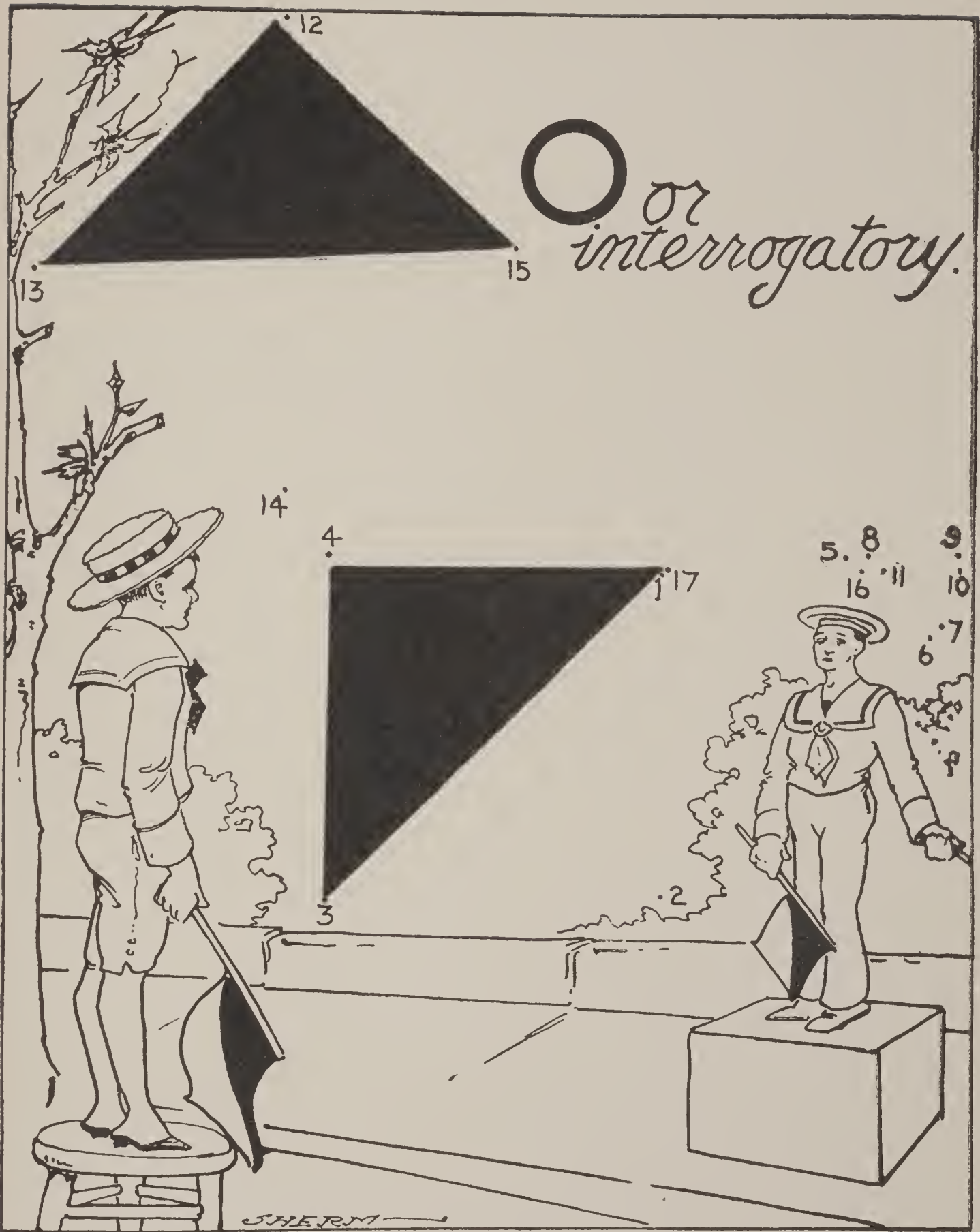


N or  
annulling

5  
10



“There is not a boy or girl within reach of my voice,” said the officer, “who cannot learn the wig-wag system. You do not have to go to war to do it and you do not even have to go into the country. You can learn all the signals in your own home and it is a fine thing to be able to practise with some neighbor, even if he is only across the street. Then when you look out and see a boy holding his right-hand flag to the right of his body at an elevation of one hundred and thirty-five degrees, and the left-hand flag also at the right at right angles with it, you will know he is sending the letter ‘O’ which also means ‘interrogatory.’”



“You have probably noticed,” explained the officer instructor, “that several of the letters I have shown you in the wig-wag system mean words as well. There are not many of these, but you will understand it is a good thing to memorize them, as they save a great deal of time. The next one means ‘affirmative.’ So when you see a man holding his right-hand flag to the right side of his body at right angles to it and his left-hand flag above his head, it means not only ‘affirmative’ but also the letter ‘P.’”

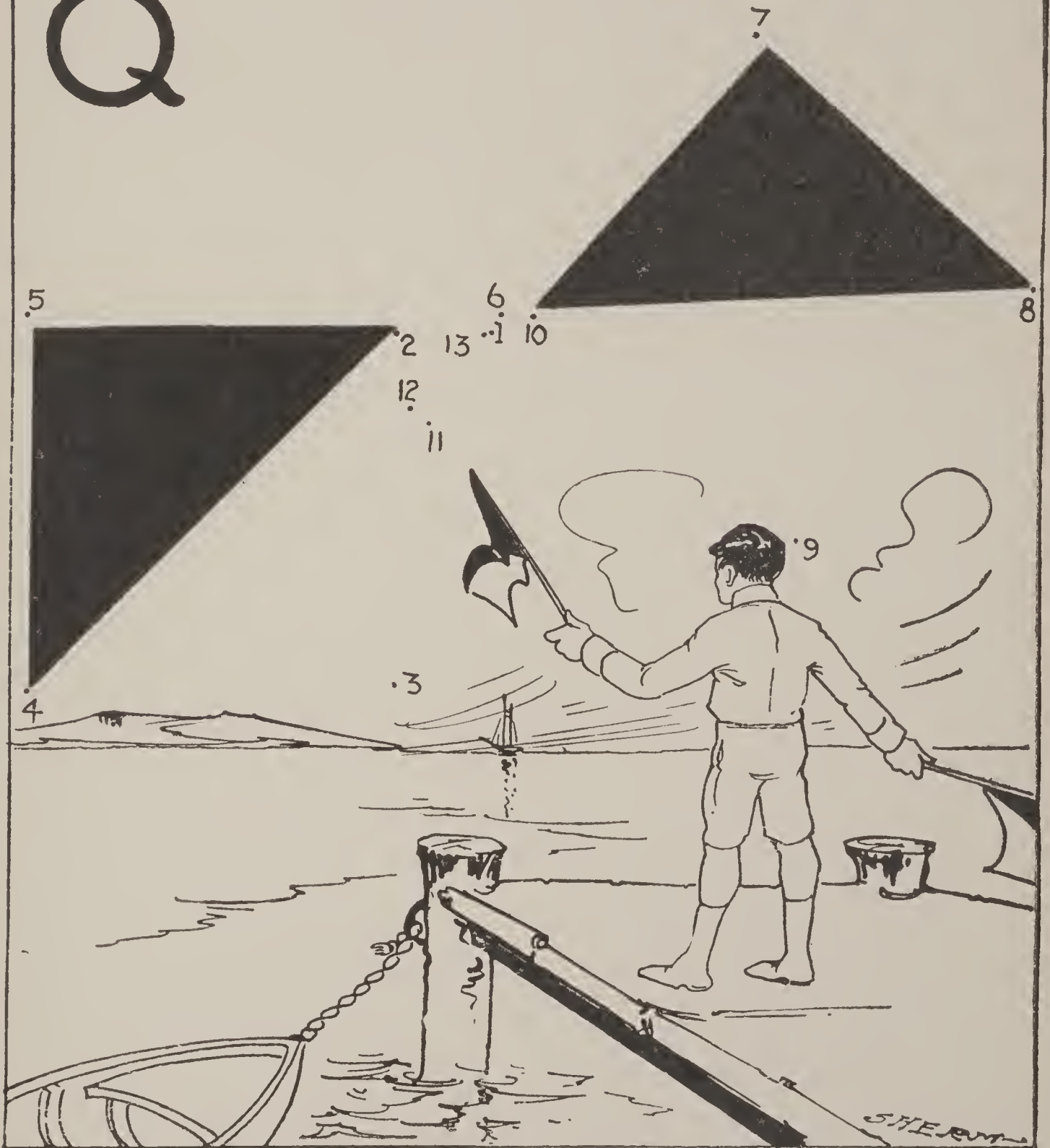
P or  
affirmative





As a demonstration of the usefulness of the signalling system, the officer told a story of how, while on a camping trip with a party of friends, they were becalmed on a lake and would have been forced to remain out on the water all night if they had not been able to signal for a motor boat to come for them. "And," he said, "when you see a man holding his right-hand flag to the right of his body at right angles with it and the left-hand flag to the left of his body at an elevation of one hundred and thirty-five degrees, you will know he is sending the letter 'Q.' "

Q



“With the artillery,” said the lecturer, “the wig-wag system is something that cannot be under-estimated. The men use it to transmit ranges and messages of all sorts, and the noise never bothers them a bit. Every man must learn it, and it does n’t take them long to send from six to ten words a minute. And when they see the signaller holding his right-hand flag to the right of his body at a right angle to it and his left-hand flag in a similar position to the left of his body, they know he is sending the letter ‘R’ or the word ‘acknowledge.’”

# R or acknowledge



“It doesn't take a nurse long to learn the wig-wag system,” said the officer, “and many of them have found it has helped them a lot in their work and has done a great deal to increase their efficiency. It saves thousands of needless steps, and is so much quicker, when it comes to sending a message, than even a motor-cycle would be. And when you see somebody holding his right-hand flag to the right of his body at right angles with it and his left-hand flag to the left of his body at an elevation of forty-five degrees, you will know he is sending the letter ‘S.’ ”



S

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16 13

11

12

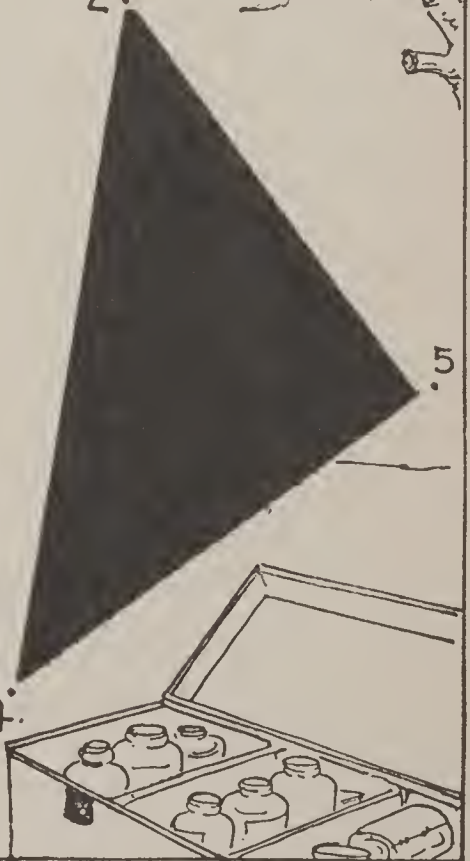
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8

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5

4



SHERM

“The Army,” explained the officer, “employs a lot of abbreviations in the field when they want to send for ammunition or to start or cease firing. These are not necessary for you to learn until you are called to the colors. But you certainly should learn this alphabet. You won’t realize how simple it is until you try it. And when you see the signaller holding his right-hand flag to the right of his body at an elevation of one hundred and thirty-five degrees and the left-hand flag above his head, you will know he is sending the letter ‘T.’ ”

T

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13

7. 8

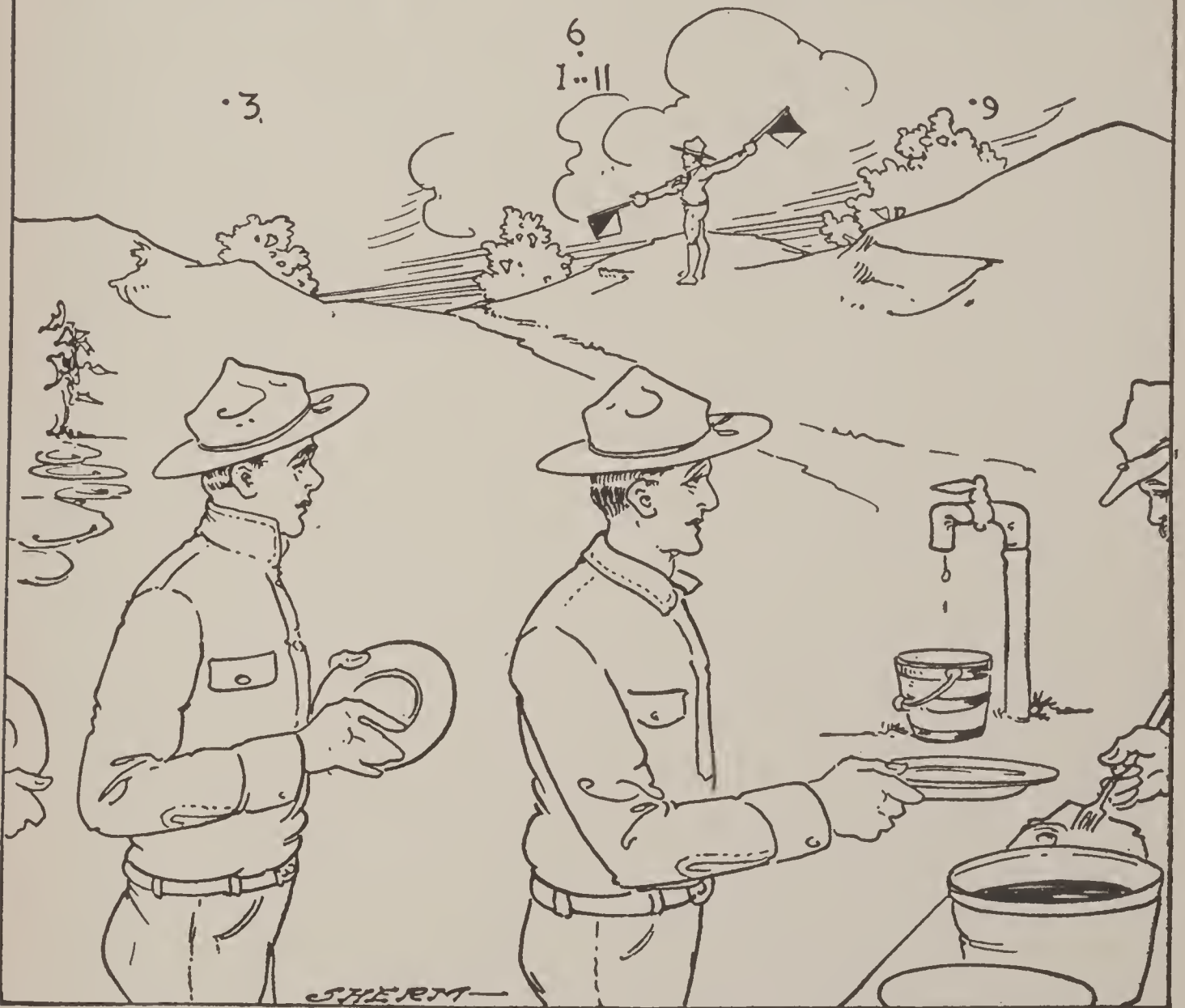
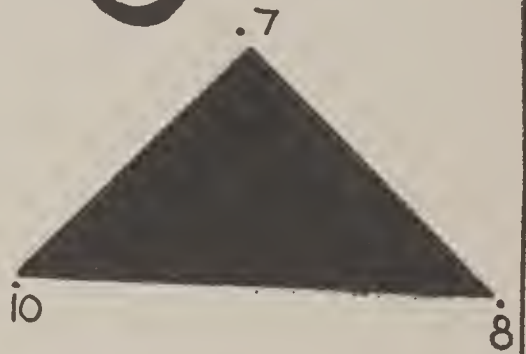
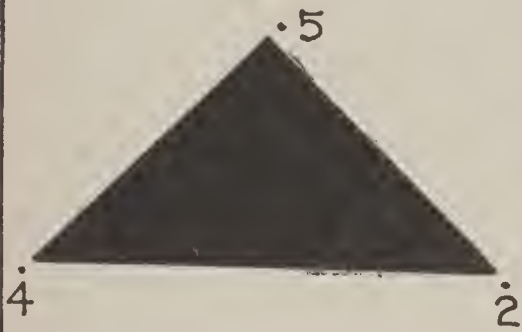


JHERM

“ I know all of you boys like to eat,” said the officer with a smile, “ and I know if you were in camp you would be just like the soldiers and want to know exactly when meals were ready. But sometimes when the wind is blowing hard or there is a lot of noise, it is almost impossible to hear the bugle. Then it is a good time to look for the flags to tell you the time for ‘chow.’ And when you see the signaller holding his right-hand flag to the right of his body at an elevation of one hundred and thirty-five degrees and the left-hand flag to the left of his body at a like elevation, you will know he is sending the letter ‘U.’ ”



U





“ Even when the boys are digging trenches,” explained the instructor, “they always keep somebody on the lookout for signals. There is no telling what is going to happen and for that reason they are always on the alert. It is no time to be surprised by a sudden attack. And when they see the signaller holding his right-hand flag to the left of his body at an elevation of one hundred and thirty-five degrees and the left-hand flag also at the left of his body at right angles to it, they know he is sending the letter ‘ W.’ ”

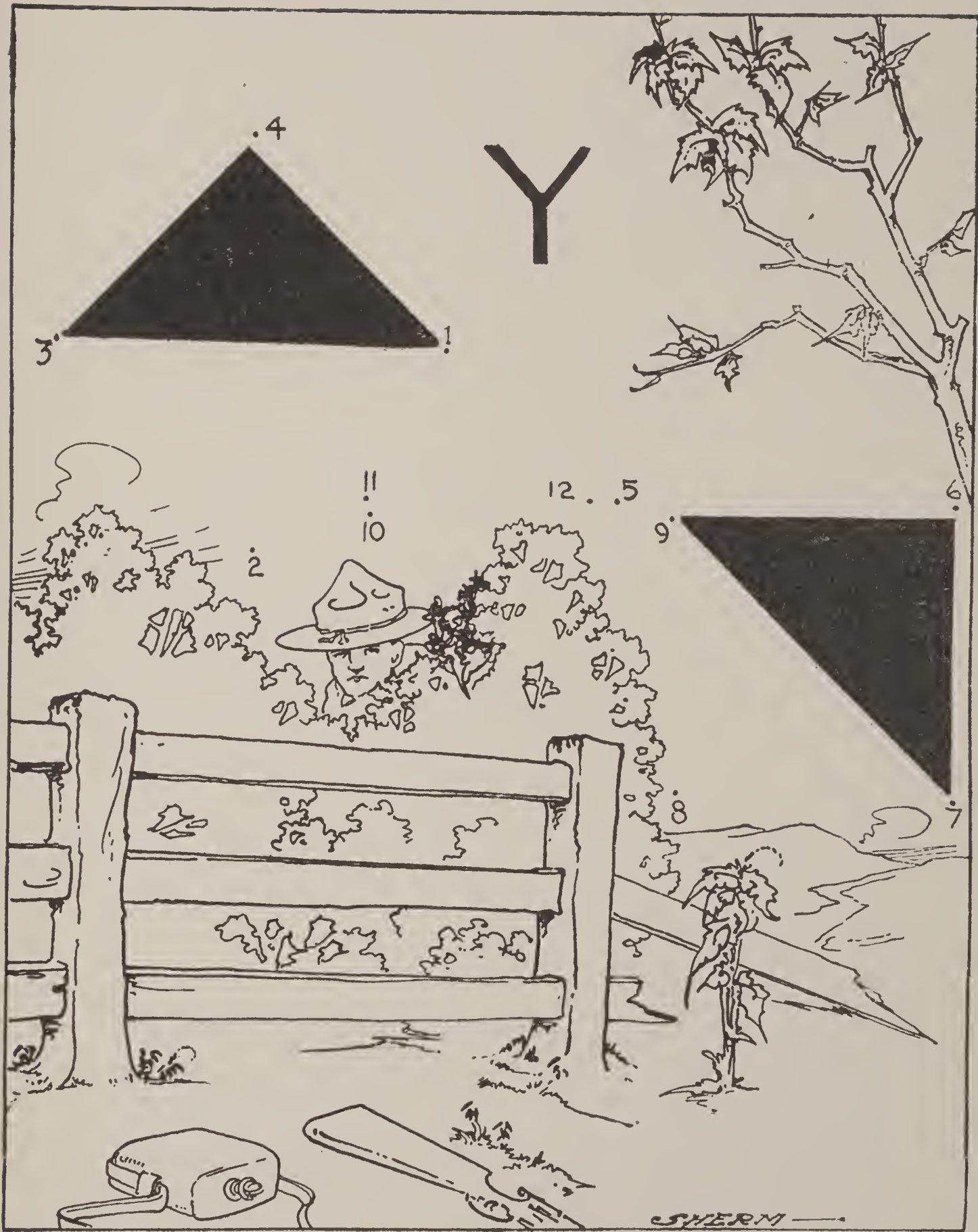


The instructor suggested the whole audience adjourn to the outdoors and begin practise with signal flags, and the suggestion met with a hearty response. It was not long before the landscape was dotted with groups sending and receiving. "You have learned," said the instructor, "all of the most important letters in the alphabet, but you must understand, when you see the signal man holding his left-hand flag to the left of his body at an elevation of one hundred and thirty-five degrees and the right-hand flag also at the left side of the body at an elevation of forty-five degrees, that he is sending the letter 'X.' "



“You should not let a day go by,” said the lecturer, “without spending at least half an hour in sending and receiving messages, and then you will find in a few weeks it will come as easy to you as reading print. And always keep your eyes open so you will notice readily when a person wishes to communicate with you. And, if he holds his right-hand flag at the right of his body at an elevation of one hundred and thirty-five degrees and his left-hand flag at the left of his body at a right angle to it, he is sending you the letter ‘Y.’”



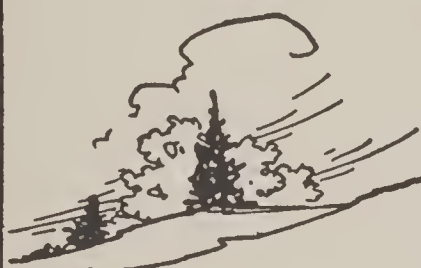


“You will not need the next letter very often,” said the officer, “but, of course, there may be a time when you want to spell ‘zero’ or send something in regard to a ‘zebra,’ but the occasions will be rare. However, you will naturally want to know the whole alphabet. So, when you see the signaller holding his left-hand flag at the left of his body at right angles to it and his right-hand flag also to the left of his body at an elevation of forty-five degrees, you will know he is sending the letter ‘Z.’”

Z

4. 9

8. 5



3.

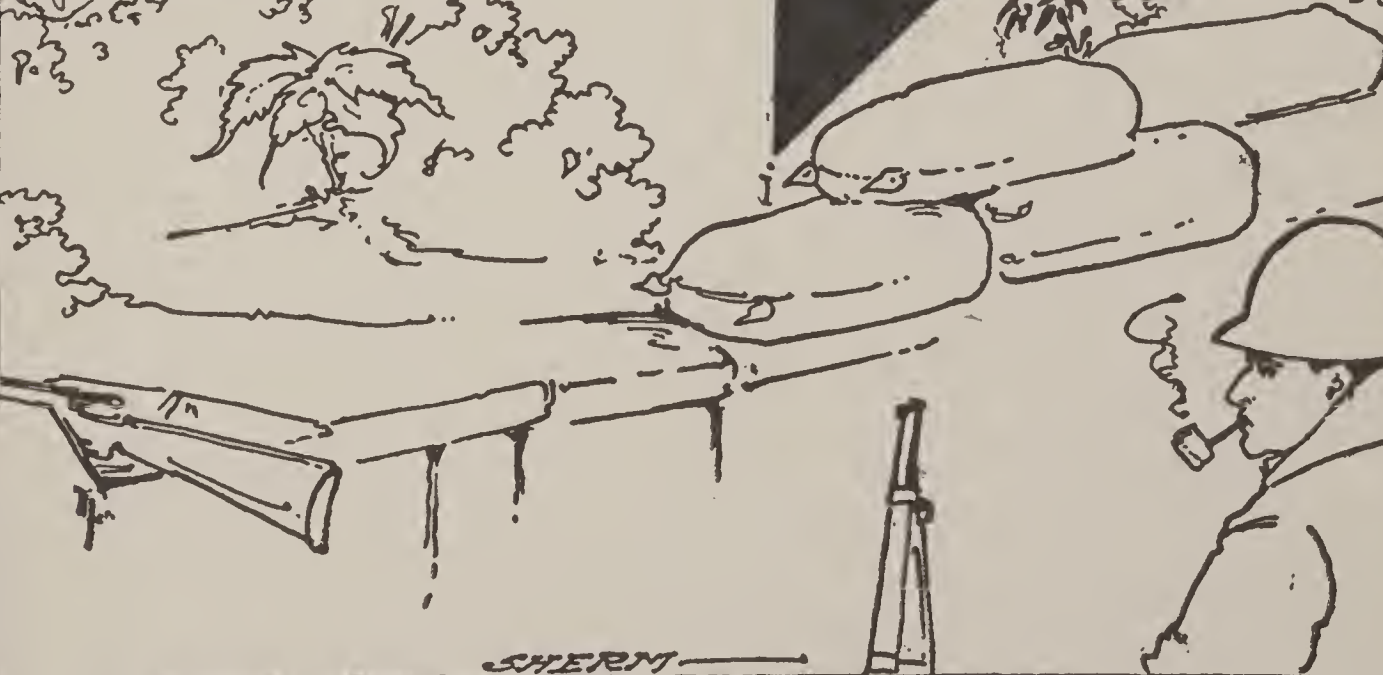
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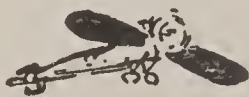


SHERM

“I can't just at this minute recall, said the officer, “whether I told you how to call attention when signalling. Anyway, you hold your flags in the same position as you do for the letter ‘U’ and then wave them about five degrees up and five degrees down. There is another signal you must learn, for it makes it easy to read words without running together. When you see the signaller holding his flags crossed in front of his body below the waist, you will know that it means ‘interval.’”



# INTERVAL



12. 13

10  
9

14  
11. 5  
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7

17.

19

16

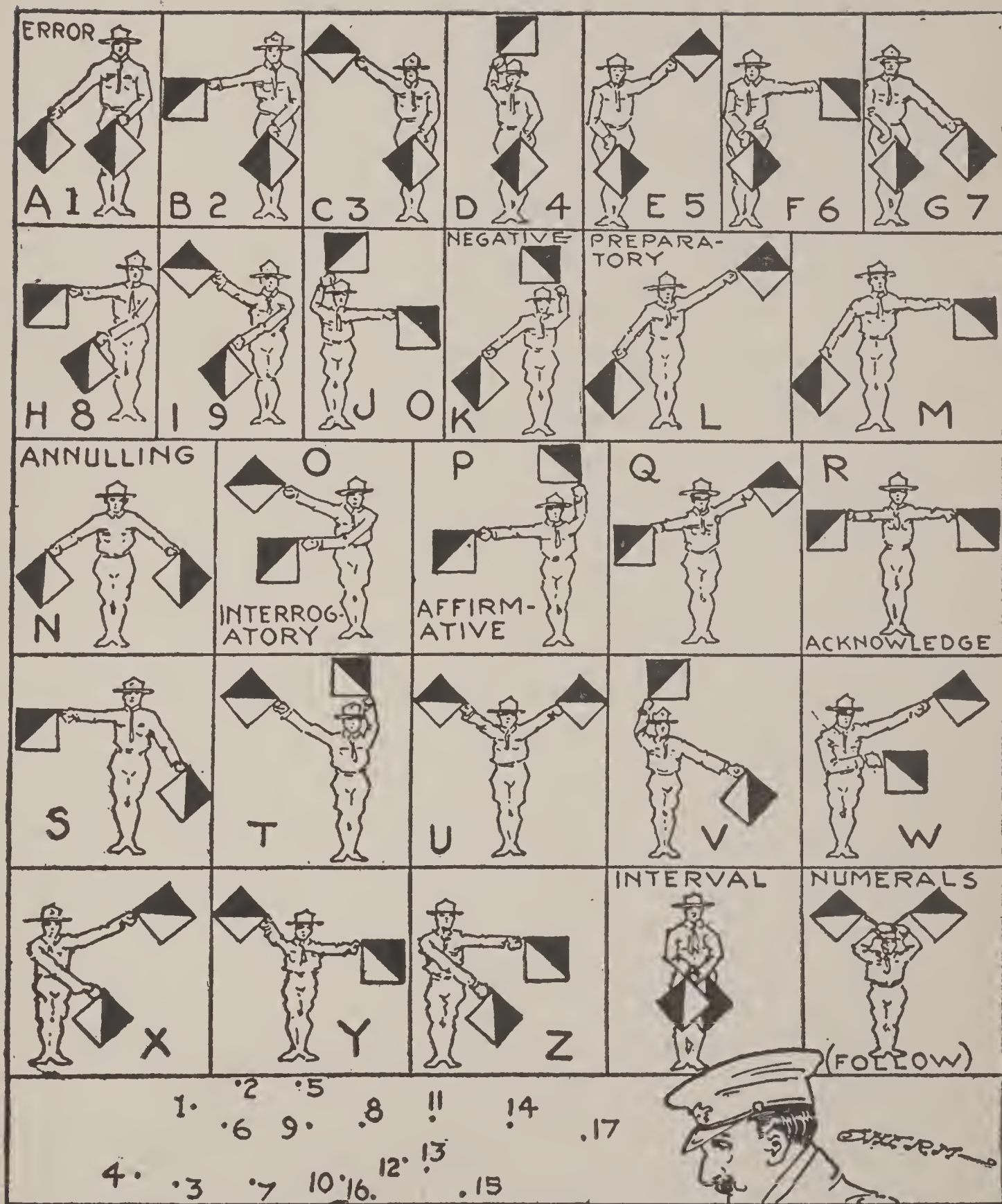
18



STERM



“A suggestion was made to me,” said the officer, “and I think it is a good one. It is for me to give you a complete set of the diagrams all in one drawing. So here you are, and with the work that you have already done you should not find it very necessary. But when you are in a hurry you can look up the letters here. I realize the whole thing resembled a mystery at first, but, like all mysteries, it is easily solved when you have the - - - - - .”



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